**Based on the context, what do you think the words in bold mean?**

Now Lennie retorted **belligerently**, “He ain’t neither. George won’t do

nothing like that. I’ve knew George since—I forget when—and he ain’t never raised his han’ to me with a stick. He’s nice to me. He ain’t gonna be mean.”

George took off his hat. He said shakily, “Take off your hat, Lennie. The air feels fine.”

Lennie removed his hat **dutifully** and laid it on the ground in front of him.

And then from out of Lennie’s head there came a little fat old woman. She wore thick bull’s-eye glasses and she wore a huge **gingham** apron with pockets, and she was starched and clean.

George shook himself. He said woodenly, “If I was alone I could live so easy.” His voice was **monotonous**, had no emphasis.

“Tend rabbits,” it said **scornfully**. “You crazy bastard. You ain’t fit to lick the boots of no rabbit. You’d forget ‘em and let ‘em go hungry. That’s what you’d do. An’ then what would George think?”